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News release

Sun shines on court

20 June 2005

The soaring temperatures which most of the country experienced at the weekend have fallen slightly ahead of the start of Wimbledon fortnight.

As the players prepared to start competing in the Championships, the mercury dropped from 33 °C to 26 °C in central London today. Despite a shower this morning, dry, hot conditions - around 26 °C - look set to continue until Friday, when more showers are possible.

Ian Cameron, Head of the Operations Centre at the Met Office, said: "The higher-than-average temperatures are something which the players have to be aware of. Temperature can affect the balls and rackets. Balls expand and shrink in the heat, which makes them react differently. Racket strings made from natural gut - which many professional players use - are particularly sensitive to the weather. Also, humidity can leave the grass slightly damp and slippery.

"Spectators also ought to make sure they have plenty to drink and wear sunscreen and hats."

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